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CBC NEWSLETTER

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GAUTHREAUX REELECTED

Dr. Sidney A. Gauthreaux, Jr. was elected president of the Carolina Bird Club for a second one year term during the Club's annual business meeting at Clemson, South Carolina on April 30, 1988. Sid is a Professor of Biology at Clemson University.

Other officers elected were Robin Carter, Vice-President (SC); Simon Thompson, Secretary; Greg Cornwell, Member-at Large (SC); Derb Carter, Member-at-Large (NC); and William H. Hough, Member-at-Large (NC). The Nominating Committee did not present a nominee for Treasurer, and Zack Bynum will continue to serve until his successor is elected.

SPRING MEETING REPORT

The decline of spring migrants and the decline of spring meeting attendance were both topics of concern at the CBC spring meeting. Meeting at Clemson, South Carolina April 29 through May 1, 1988; the Club heard Dr. Sidney A. Gauthreaux, Jr. speak on "Tropical Deforestation and the Decline of Neotropical Migrants" during its opening session. Because the tropical forests where our spring migrants winter are being destroyed at an alarming rate there is a possibility that trans-Gulf migration may not exist after the year 2000. Spring migration will be the departure of the White-throated Sparrow. The tragedy of it is in the words of Dr. Gauthreaux "there's not a damn thing we can do about it!"

Although not on the magnitude of the spring migration decline the problem of attendance at the spring meetings of the Carolina Bird Club is equally puzzling. Registration at the Clemson meeting totaled 60. A change in the originally reported meeting date and conflicts with some early spring bird counts accounts for some of the poor attendance. However, this problem has been with the Club for a number of years. We have come to accept the fact that in spite of the fact that it is the annual business meeting when officers are elected and other important decisions made the spring meeting will be our low attendance for the year. The executive committee has discussed cutting back to the fall and winter meetings which are well attended, but some members have expressed a reluctance to eliminate the spring meeting. If you have an opinion, please share it with CBC president, Dr. Sidney A. Gauthreaux, Jr., Department of Biological Sciences, Clemson University, Clemson, SC 29634-1903.

Saturday field trips produced a total of 117 species with Dickcissels in the Townville area being especially noteworthy. Prior to the business meeting during the Saturday evening session two speakers shared short talks on their scientific research. Jill Shaner, a Clemson graduate student working with Dr. Gauthreaux, discussed magnetism and bird orientation studies. Her own studies have led her to question the validity of magnetism as a factor in orientation of birds during migration. Dr. Dale Droge then undertook to convince the group that "Rock Doves (pigeons) are Real Birds!" His studies on parenting behavior were especially interesting in view of most birders tendency to ignore rock doves for all practical purposes.

On Sunday morning a large group gathered for a return field trip to the Townville area which had been so productive on Saturday. Less ambitious birders slept late and headed back home well pleased with themselves for having made the effort to attend an excellent spring meeting.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

I wanted to take this opportunity to welcome Herb Hendrickson aboard as the new editor of The Chat. From his "BIRDER" license plate on his truck to his "BIRDER AT WORK" cap Herb is every inch the expert field birder. With all that he brings the academic and scientific credentials to maintain and extend the influence of The Chat as a first rate regional journal of ornithology. CBC Newsletter wishes him well.

All of us will miss the interesting columns edited by Gail Whitehurst and Louis Fink so ably over the years. However, I have a suggestion for Herb and the membership of the Carolina Bird Club. Rather than seeking to reestablish these columns in The Chat why not redirect such contributions to the Newsletter? We have two publications; one suited to scientific articles and important field observations and the other directed toward the "people" side of birding. As the current issue will attest, I am already receiving quite a bit of interesting material. The addition of what might have gone to Gail or Lou will improve the Newsletter and give more room for more technical material in The Chat. I will welcome your reaction. CS

CHIP NOTES

BETTY M. KIMBALL of Warne, NC was directed to your editor for help in identifying a strange bird at her feeder this winter. It looked like a Tufted Titmouse and sang like a T.T., but it had a black back, black face and a black bib like a junco. The belly was a solid rust color. Finding nothing in my field guides that fit the description, I turned to expert help. I called Harry LeGrand who offered the opinion that it was a melanistic Tufted Titmouse rather than some exotic new species. Later Betty send some pictures which were not conclusive, but Harry still was of the opinion that it was a T.T. whose pigments had gone wild.

While showing the Kimball pictures to Harry he pulled out a picture that had been sent in to the Division of Parks and Recreation by BERT ROSEFIELD of McCain Hospital. He called it his "bald eagle" with tongue in cheek since it was the same size as a White-throated Sparrow also in the picture. In spite of a solid white head and neck the size and yellow lores gave it away as a White-throated Sparrow with a possible touch of albinism.

The May-June '88 issue of Bird Watchers Digest reprints a Wildlife in North Carolina article by DAVID LEE, "Where the Warblers Are." It is illustrated by five color photos by JOHN TROTT. Both are outstanding CBC members.

JERRY YOUNG'S photo of a Green Violet-ear at Asheville was selected for the American Birds "Regional Reports Pictorial Highlights Fall 1987."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Proceedings of the Nongame and Endangered Species Symposium held in Athens, GA September 8-10, 1987 are now available for $10 from Nongame/Endangered Species Program, Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources, Rt. 2, Box 119A; Social Circle, GA 30279. Make checks payable to Planning Committee, 3rd Nongame Wildlife Symposium.

The National Wildlife Federation and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University will host the Southeast Raptor Management Symposium and Workshop Sept. 14-16 in Blacksburg, VA at the Donaldson Brown Center for Continuing Education. Symposium workshops will encourage participants to discuss regional issues related to raptors and to develop management recommendations. The symposium is the fourth in a series of five regional symposia sponsored by the NWF's Institute for Wildlife Research. For more information contact the National Wildlife Federation, Institute for Wildlife Research, 1400 Sixteenth St., N.W. Washington, D.C. 20036-2266 or call 703/790-4268.

Would you like to participate in a continentwide survey of bird feeders designed to answer questions about where the birds at your feeded come from, where they go when they leave, and why their numbers change from year to year? The Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology is offering you that opportunity. To participate or receive reports send a $9 check payable to Project FeederWatch to Erica Dunn, Coordinator, Project FeederWatch, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, Sapsucker Woods, Ithaca, NY 14850.

FISHING FOR BIRDS

An article in the Journal of Field Ornithology 59(2), 1988, by R. W. Schreiber and P. J. Mock analyzed 60 years of banding from the Carolinas and Florida. More than half of the banded pelicans (of 3106 recoveries) found dead died from human activity, with entanglement in fish line as a major factor. The reported recovery rate represents only a small fraction of the birds that probably actually die from fishing line.

In a somewhat related article, Atkins and Heneman (American Birds, 41(5), 1987) reported alarming numbers of seabirds, especially murres, puffins, razorbills, and shearwaters that are killed annually in gill nets in U.S. waters. In California in 1983, an estimated 25,000-30,000 Common Murres were killed in gill nets. This figure has apparently declined to 6,000-8,000 murres killed annually in recent years. Although California has greatly restricted gill netting since 1987, especially around nesting colonies, nets continue to be used throughout U.S. coastal waters. Although oil spills receive widespread attention for their impacts on wildlife, especially bird kills, gill nets may be a more lethal problem in seabird protection. ***JOHN E. CELY***

DO YOUR BIRDS HAVE TICKS?

Probably because of periods of unseasonably warm weather this winter, ticks remained active and infested not only mammalian hosts but birds as well. Many of the Dark-eyed Juncos and Purple Finches which I have trapped for banding have had one or even two ticks attached to their heads, usually close to an eye. The ticks appear to be the American dog tick, Dermacentor variabilis.

My wife and I remove the ticks, and quite a few of the birds survive as shown by recaptures. On the other hand, there are fatalities, since many of the birds are weakened by loss of blood. (Editor's Note: Greg Cornwell picked up a dead American Goldfinch with tick attached on the way to the CBC spring meeting in Clemson, SC)

I would be interested in hearing what other banders in the Carolinas have experienced with ticks on the birds which they have banded. Also, feeder observers, if they look carefully, can see if ticks are present on their birds. Their observations would also be of interest. ALBERT E. CONWAY, 1672 Deer Run Road, Catawba, SC 29704

NC BREEDING BIRD ATLAS REPORT

DAVE LEE reports that the North Carolina Breeding Bird Atlas project is off to a good start. Over 70 people have volunteered to cover 200+ blocks. These blocks are scattered over 52 of the State's 100 counties. Many of the volunteers are CBC members who responded to Dave's presentation at the winter meeting at Nags Head.

FALL MEETING

Make your plans now to attend the CBC fall meeting at Columbia, SC. The dates are October 7-9, 1988.

CBC RARE BIRD ALERT

704-332-BIRD

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Membership Application and Order Form

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (___)_____(home) (___)_____(business)

ENTER/NEW MEMBERSHIP AS INDICATED

___Individual ($12) ___Life ($200)
___Family ($15) ___Patron ($50)
___Student ($6) ___Affiliate Club ($15)
___Library/Institution ($15)

Make check payable to Carolina Bird Club, Inc. and mail to P. O Box 27647, Raleigh, NC 27611.

SEND MATERIALS INDICATED

____CBC Cloth Arm Patch $1.50 (1), $1.25 each in quantity
____CBC Decals (water type) 75c (1) 50c each in quantity
____Daily Checklists 10/$1; 25/$1.25; 50/$2.50; 75/$3.75; 100/$5.00
____Birds of the Carolinas $13.45 plus $1.25 for mailing
____Amphibians and Reptiles of the Carolinas $13.45 plus $1.25 for mailing

Welcome New Members

JOAN & JACK BARTLETT
Buxton, NC

MARGRET CRUISE
Clemson, SC

HEYWARD B. DOUGLASS
Seneca, SC

GREENVILLE RIVERPARK NORTH BIRD CLUB
Greenville, NC

ALLEN M. HALE
Shipman, VA

M/M JOHN D. HOBART
Smithfield, NC

JACQUELYN P. JURECEK
Seneca, SC

JOANN KNOX
Seneca, SC

CHARLES & FAY MILTON
Chapin, SC

CLAIRE MCCULLOUGH
Raleigh, NC

MARK MORRIS
Chapel Hill, NC

MILES. L. PEELLE
Brevard, NC

JOANNE R. POPE
Pisgah Forest, NC

CLAIRE W. SCHEUTRUM
Waycross, GA

SHEPPARD MEMORIAL LIBRARY
Greenville, NC

M/M LEROY W. SHUTT
Wilmington, NC

PAUL TARDIF
Greenville, NC

PHIL WILKINSON
Georgetown, SC

LOGAN WILLIAMS
Garner, NC

"FOR BIRDERS ONLY"

Carolina Bird Club members who have access to a personal computer will be interested in a national bulletin board system "For Birders Only" which is a free service offered by new CBC members DONNA & MICHAEL RATLEDGE. To receive information on a personal computer a birder need only telephone 1-803-723-6430. In technical jargon, that's the primary number to call at 300 to 9600 baud to access the computer program. Immediately the computer screen will show a list of topics including a seasonally updated list of birds at Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge which borders the Ratledges' home, programs and addresses of birding interest, special projects for backyard birders, local birding hotspots updated monthly, rare bird sightings, and bird songs. For more information, contact "For Birders Only", c/o Donna Ratledge, 995 Buck Hall Landing, McClellanville, SC 29458.

DECEASED

The Carolina Bird Club notes with regret the death of the following member:

EDITH E. HAYNES
Columbia, SC

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